

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for distributing software, comprising the steps of:
2 querying a user as to the needs of the user;
3 receiving user responses to the query;
4 characterizing the use of the user based upon the user responses; and
5 providing software programs that may be beneficial to the user based upon the
6 characterization of the use.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of querying a user comprises
2 posing at least one multiple choice question to the user.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of querying a user comprises
2 querying the user as to how the user plans to use a peripheral device.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of querying a user comprises
2 querying the user via a web site accessible on the Internet.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving user
2 selections in response to the provided software programs.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of suggesting an
2 alternative selection after receiving a user selection that identifies a software program
3 the user already possesses.

1 7. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of initiating
2 downloading of the selected software programs to a computing device of the user.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the software programs are downloaded
2 from a storage medium read by the computing device.

1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the software programs are downloaded
2 to the computing device from a remote source via a network.

1 10. A system for distributing software, comprising:
2 means for querying a user as to the needs of the user;
3 means for receiving user responses to the query;
4 means for characterizing the use of the user based upon the user responses; and
5 means for providing software programs that may be beneficial to the user
6 based upon the characterization of the use.

1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the means for querying the user
2 comprise means for querying the user via a web site accessible on the Internet.

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1 12. The system of claim 10, further comprising means for receiving user
2 selections in response to the provided software programs.

1 13. The system of claim 12, further comprising means for suggesting an
2 alternative selection in response to receipt of a user selection that identifies a software
3 program the user already possesses.

1 14. The system of claim 12, further comprising means for initiating
2 downloading of the selected software programs to a computing device of the user.

1 15. The system of claim 13, wherein the means for initiating downloading
2 comprise means for initiating downloading from a storage medium read by the
3 computing device.

1 16. The system of claim 13, wherein the means for initiating downloading
2 comprise means for initiating downloading from a remote source via a network.

1 17. A software program stored on a computer-readable medium,
2 comprising:
3 logic configured to query a user as to the needs of the user;
4 logic configured to receive user responses to the query;
5 logic configured to characterize the use of the user based upon the user
6 responses; and

7 logic configured to provide software programs that may be beneficial to the
8 user based upon the characterization of the use.

1 18. The software program of claim 17, further comprising logic configured
2 to receive user selections in response to the provided software programs.

1 19. The software program of claim 18, further comprising logic configured
2 to suggest an alternative selection in response to receipt of a user selection that
3 identifies a software program the user already possesses.

1 20. The software program of claim 17, further comprising logic configured
2 to initiate downloading of the selected software programs to a computing device of the
3 user.

1 21. A method for distributing software for a peripheral device, comprising
2 the steps of:
3 querying a user as to what the peripheral device may be used for;
4 receiving responses from the user; and
5 providing software programs for the peripheral device based upon the user
6 responses.

1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of querying a user comprises
2 querying the user via a web site accessible on the Internet.

1 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of querying a user comprises
2 querying the user via a web site accessible on the Internet.

1 31. The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of initiating
2 downloading of selected software programs to a computing device of the user.

1 32. The method of claim 29, wherein the software programs are
2 downloaded to a computing device from a remote source via a network.

1 33. A method for distributing software, comprising the steps of:
2 determining tasks a user wishes to accomplish;
3 receiving responses from the user; and
4 installing software programs based upon the user responses.

1 34. The method of claim 33, wherein the step of querying a user comprises
2 querying the user via a web site accessible on the Internet.

1 35. The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of initiating
2 downloading of selected software programs to a computing device of the user.

1 36. The method of claim 33, wherein the software programs are
2 downloaded to a computing device from a remote source via a network.